

REMARKS

The Office is respectfully requested to enter the above amendments prior to the calculation of the filing fee in this application. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, it is respectfully invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bretton L. Crockett
Registration Number 44,632
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT, PC
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
Telephone: (801) 532-1922

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ACT/BLC

N:\2183.5091.5091 Preliminary Amendment.wpd

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for increasing immune competence of an animal, said method comprising inducing calcitriol synthesis [by] in said animal wherein said animal is selected from [the] a group of poultry or pigs.
2. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 1 further comprising feeding said animal a food capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
3. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 2 wherein said food is supplemented or enriched with a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
4. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 3 wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.
5. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 3 [or 4] wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.
6. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 5 wherein said leguminous seed is soy.
7. (Amended) [A] The method [according to anyone of the foregoing claims whereby] of claim 1 wherein also phytate degradation capacity of said animal is increased.
8. (Amended) A method for preparing pig or poultry [food suitable for] feed for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation capacity of pigs or poultry comprising supplementing or enriching [said food] a pig or poultry feed with a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

9. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 8, wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.

10. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 9, wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.

11. (Amended) [A] The method [according to] of claim 10, wherein said leguminous seed is soy.

Please cancel claim 12, without prejudice or disclaimer.

13. (Amended) A supplement for an animal food suitable for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation capacity of [said] an animal comprising a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

14. (Amended) [A] The supplement [according to] of claim 13, wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.

15. (Amended) An animal food comprising a supplement of claim 13 [or 14].

Please cancel claim 17, without prejudice or disclaimer.

18. (Amended) A method for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation of [a] an animal selected from the group consisting of pig [or] and poultry comprising feeding said animal a food according to [anyone of claims 16 to 18] claim 16.

Please cancel claims 19, 20 and 21, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

22. (New) A method of reducing the dietary intake of antibiotics of an animal comprising administering to said animal a food comprising a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said seed is soy.